

Attachment 3

Texas Natural Resource
Conservation Commission

Letter Requesting Assistance

**TNRCC**Protecting Texas
by Reducing and
Preventing Pollution

FAX TRANSMITTAL

DATE: 4/25/2000 NUMBER OF PAGES (including this cover sheet):17

TO: Name Charlie Gazda and Ragan Broyles
Organization EPA Region 6
Emergency Response Branch
FAX Number (214) 665-7447

FROM: TEXAS NATURAL RESOURCE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Name David L. Davis
Division/Region TNRCC Remediation Division
Telephone Number (512) 239-2453
FAX Number (512) 239-4814

NOTES:

RE: LITTLE BIT WIRELINE
715 SUNNYSIDE DRIVE
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77707
TXD NONE
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH REGISTRATION NO. L03168
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH INCIDENT # 6919

The Little Bit Wireline incident consists of two sites of Americium-241 contamination that resulted from a ruptured well logging source. Approximately 3 Curies of Americium-241 was in the source when it ruptured. The well logging source was ruptured on September 19, 1995 at the Evans Unit "A" # 1 well of the North Winnie Oil Field, near Winnie, Chambers County, Texas. Contamination by Americium-241 was subsequently detected at Little Bit Wireline's shop, 715 Sunnyside Drive, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas.

The TNRCC feels that these conditions pose an imminent and substantial threat to human health and the environment. The TNRCC requests that the EPA ERB assessment and removal declaration of EPA's intention to respond to this incident as soon as possible.

CC. Jacqueline S. Hardee, P.E., TNRCC
Glenda Champagne, TNRCC
Wesley Newberry, TNRCC
Robert Free, TDH BRC

LITTLE BIT WIRELINE
715 SUNNYSIDE DRIVE
BEAUMONT, TEXAS 77707
TXD NONE

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Site Locations:

The Little Bit Wireline incident consists of two sites of Americium-241 contamination that resulted from a ruptured well logging source. The well logging source was ruptured on September 19, 1995 at the Evans Unit "A" # 1 well of the North Winnie Oil Field, near Winnie, Chambers County, Texas. Contamination by Americium-241 was subsequently detected at Little Bit Wireline's shop, 715 Sunnyside Drive, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas.

Description of the Incident and Site Conditions:

On August 11, 1995 an approximately 3 Curie Americium-241 well logging source became stuck down the Evans Unit "A" # 1 well of the North Winnie Oil field, near Winnie, Chambers County, Texas. Attempts to recover the source were unsuccessful until September 19, 1995 when the source was discovered to be leaking. Instrument readings taken at that time indicated one millirem per hour. Equipment at the site was washed but had to remain at the site due to radiation readings over regulatory limits. However, one contaminated mud pump was allowed to leave the site. A radiation survey of Little Bit Wireline's shop was performed and indicated that it was contaminated. On October 19, 1995 the U.S. Department of Energy recovered the Americium-241 source and transported it to their Los Alamos facility on October 20, 1995. Later radiation surveys by NSSI indicated high Americium-241 in bovine fecal material on the unsecured site.

A time line of relevant events of this incident, NSSI's radiation survey of Little Bit Wireline's shop and other relevant information is attached with this fax transmittal.

TNRCC Removal Recommendations:

1. Assess both the well site and Little Bit Wireline's shop for radioactive contamination;
2. Evaluate existing structures at each facility to determine if decontamination and/or demolition is appropriate.

Response Question:

Will the EPA ERB assess the sites listed above for the response actions?